

Bryanna had a friend who died from carbon monoxide poisoning just a few weeks before Christmas. She turned her grief into action, reaching out to two friends to help her so others would not be lost to this killer. They formed a group and went door-to-door raising donations to buy carbon monoxide detectors for local families. These detectors cost only about \$20.00 each, but within a short span they formed Hopes of Faith to handle the donations. To date, they have raised more than enough money to buy 200 detectors and then received 100 more from Safe Kids Minnesota and Kiddie, a company that makes the units.

Bryanna recently spoke at a school assembly and told her classmates, "We didn't think we could do this much at first. We're just fifth-graders. Regular fifth graders, but we reached out and wanted to take a chance."

How many times do we look around our communities and think something should be done and wait for others to lead the way? Bryanna, Alexa and Ani are exceptional young students we can look to as leaders. They saw a need, stepped forward and did something about it. I am so very proud of them.

#### HONORING LUCY COFFEY

#### HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2015*

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lucy Coffey, the oldest living female veteran who passed away last week after 108 vibrant years. Originally from Indiana, Ms. Coffey was working in a Dallas, Texas supermarket when she learned of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Putting country before self, Ms. Coffey quit her job and joined the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps. She bravely served in the Pacific Theater during World War II, earning two bronze stars and ascending to the rank of sergeant.

For 13 years after her discharge in 1945, Ms. Coffey worked as an Army civilian in Okinawa, Japan. She ultimately settled in my hometown of San Antonio, where she worked in the procurement office at Kelly Air Force Base until her retirement in 1971.

Last year, Ms. Coffey visited the nation's capital on an Honor Flight. While in Washington, she not only visited the women's memorial at Arlington National Cemetery and the National World War II Memorial, she also met with both Vice President Biden and President Obama.

Ms. Coffey leaves behind an abundance of admirers who have sung her praises since her passing. President Obama cited Ms. Coffey's pioneering spirit and the inspiration she has provided generations of patriots since her service. Vice President Biden celebrated her legacy and said he was honored to have met her. Bexar County veterans service officer Queta Marquez highlighted Ms. Coffey's liveliness and spunk.

Mr. Speaker, I want to offer Ms. Coffey's loved ones my sincere condolences for their loss and echo San Antonians' deep gratitude for her exemplary service and unwavering patriotism. She was a remarkable American who will be greatly missed.

#### HONORING COAST GUARD CAPTAIN ANDY BLOMME

#### HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2015*

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a proud son of North Carolina, Captain Carlyle "Andy" Blomme, as he prepares to retire from the United States Coast Guard.

Captain Blomme has served as the Coast Guard Chief of Congressional Affairs since June 2012, where he has been an excellent representative of the Coast Guard here on Capitol Hill. Captain Blomme has worked diligently to ensure the Coast Guard has the resources and authorities necessary to not only keep our nation safe, but to be a steward of its natural resources. His deep knowledge of Coast Guard operations, acquisitions, and strategic priorities has been invaluable to the members who work closely with the Coast Guard, which I came to appreciate as Ranking Member of the Appropriations Subcommittee of Homeland Security. This has been especially true as we have worked to recapitalize the Coast Guard's aging fleet in a time of shrinking budgets.

There has been no better advocate for, or representative of, the Coast Guard than Captain Blomme and I am proud to have had the opportunity to work closely with Andy during this time. My staff and I have often relied on him and his staff's knowledge and understanding of the missions, challenges and responsibilities of the Coast Guard.

Captain Blomme comes from a distinguished family of seafarers from North Carolina. His great, great grandfather was First Mate on the SS *Ella* and *Annie*, a Blockade Running Steamship in the Civil War. *Ella* and *Annie* ran the Federal blockade on behalf of the Confederacy until November 1863, when she was captured by USS *Niphon* off New Inlet, North Carolina. Demonstrating his pride as the son, of the son, of a sailor, Captain Blomme came back to the same proud roots decades later as the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Cutter *Diligence*, homeported in Wilmington, North Carolina.

Captain Blomme is a 1985 graduate of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut. He has served at sea and ashore in a variety of operational and staff tours throughout his distinguished career, including serving in Command of Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville, as well as Coast Guard Cutters *Diligence*, *Nantucket*, and *Point Huron*. He also rounded out his nearly twelve years of sea duty with tours aboard Coast Guard Cutters *Gallatin* and *Chase*. Aside from an impressive record of sea service, Andy has also served ashore as a controller in the Coast Guard's Fifth District Command Center in Portsmouth, VA, as the Operations Officer at Coast Guard Group Miami and as Military Assistant to the Secretary of Homeland Security during the tenures of Secretaries Michael Chertoff and Janet Napolitano.

This week, Captain Blomme will depart his post on Capitol Hill and retire after 30 years of honorable service. During that time, he has embodied the spirit of the Coast Guard and its motto, *Semper Paratus, Always Ready*. We thank him and his family for his service to the

United States Congress and to the country. On behalf of the House of Representatives, we wish Captain Blomme, his wife Peg, and their two sons, Matthew and Alex, the best in their future endeavors. We congratulate Captain Andy Blomme on his retirement and wish him fair winds and following seas.

#### PLATTE VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2015*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Platte Valley Medical Center for receiving the 2014 Commerce City Business on the Move Award.

The Business on the Move Award recognizes businesses bringing new employment, growth in sales or new capital investment to the city in the last year. The Platte Valley Medical Center built their first off-site medical office building in the Reunion Marketplace area expanding their service to northern Commerce City. This provides critical service from medical providers to a community that has had limited access at this new location while ensuring access to quality care and support to the community.

I extend my deepest congratulations to the Platte Valley Medical Center for this well-deserved recognition by Commerce City.

#### HONORING CONOR DEVLIN

#### HON. PETE OLSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 24, 2015*

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to interact with some of the brightest students in the 22nd Congressional District who serve on my Congressional Youth Advisory Council. I have gained much by listening to the high school students who are the future of this great nation. They provide important insight into the concerns of our younger constituents and hopefully get a better sense of the importance of being an active participant in the political process. Many of the students have written short essays on a variety of topics and I am pleased to share them with my House colleagues.

Conor Devlin attends Tompkins High School in Katy, Texas. The essay topic is: in your opinion, what role should government play in our lives?

Our government has evolved far beyond its original parameters. It now regulates entire economic industries, healthcare, going so far as to regulate the types of things we can and cannot buy. Our government has left its original designation as a *Laissez-Faire* Democratic Republic to a borderline Socialist country like the rest of the European and the EU. Our government is an overgrown bureaucracy that costs us—the American people—trillions each year, and yet it fails to accomplish its task when its people are spiraling into debt and unemployment is skyrocketing. The job of the American government is to protect its citizens with an up to date military comprised of the most advanced arsenal. Secondly, the government